

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY International Application No.  
REPORT REGARDING PCT/EP2004/052779  
PATENTABILITY  
(SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET)

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Box V

Reasoned statement according to Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. None of the cited documents discloses all of the features of claims 1 to 10. Therefore, the subject matter of these claims is novel.

2. The closest prior art is described in document EP-A-773362. This document describes a device for retaining a fuel pump in a fuel container, with a pump holder, with first retaining means (4b) of the pump holder, provided for supporting on a fixed component, in particular a baffle pot, and with second retaining means (6) of the pump holder, provided for supporting the fuel pump, and with a damping device (4) connecting the first and the second retaining means to one another, the retaining means being manufactured from plastic, the first retaining means, the second retaining means and the damping device being manufactured as a single piece, the damping device (4) having arms (4d, 4f, 4g) which are angled away from one another, and during a movement of the fuel pump the arms being subject to a torsional and/or bending load. Furthermore, the damping device has at least one first vertical arm (4d) and at least one first horizontal arm (4f) angled away from the first vertical arm.

In the case of this device for retaining a fuel pump, there is the problem of improving the damping characteristics.

To solve this problem, the application proposes designing the horizontal arm as an annular element.

These features are not known from any of the cited documents, and it does not seem obvious to incorporate them in the retaining means known from D1. The subject matter of claim 1 therefore appears to contain an inventive step.

3. Dependent claims 2 to 10 are dependent on claim 1. Consequently, the subject matter of these claims is also novel and involves an inventive step. Claims 1 to 10 therefore appear to meet the criteria defined in PCT Article 33(1) - (3).